

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 USIA-12 /027 W

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R 101355Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4525

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 2481

FOR CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CS

SUBJECT: FY 1974 FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF

COSTA RICA

REF: CU PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR FY 1974

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA (UCR) FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES HAS REQUESTED A FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR TO TEACH ORGANIZATION THEORY OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (PROJECT NO. A(3) OF CPP), BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER IF POSSIBLE, OTHERWISE, IN MARCH 1974. FLUENT SPANISH REQUIRED.

3. THIS REQUEST HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FULLY WITH THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY, JOSE MANUEL SALAZAR NAVARRETE, AND WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY. SALAZAR HAD FIRST REQUESTED THREE PROFESSORS--IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AS WELL AS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION-- BUT WHEN TOLD WE COULD ENTERTAIN A REQUEST FOR ONE, HE CHOSE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A HIGHE PRIORITY BOTH FOR HIS FACULTY AND FOR THE PRESENT NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

3. THE CT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST AND REQUESTS THAT A MAJOR EFFORT BE MADE TO OBTAIN A HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSOR BY SEPTEMBER. SUPPORT TO THIS FACULTY IS A KEY PART OF OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE
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STRATEGY. THIS REQUEST ALSO ADDRESSES A MAJOR

DEVELOPMENT INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN COSTA RICA. THE PUBLIC SECTOR CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTES SOME 20-25 PERCENT OF GDP, YET PROBLEMS IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION, AND EXECUTION ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY BURDENSOME. THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE AREAS OF PLANNING, BUDGET DEVELOPMENT AND TAX ADMINISTRATION, AS WELL AS IN THE DIFFICULTIES IN COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE DECENTRALIZED, STATE-OWNED ENTITIES.

4. AN ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WHICH MAKES THIS REQUEST OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US AND, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY REWARDING TO A PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE, IS THAT THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES HAS BECOME A VITAL CENTER FROM WHICH MUCH OF THE INSPIRATION FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY HAS, AND INCREASINGLY WILL, COME. IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, A SMALL GROUP OF PROFESSORS FROM

THIS FACULTY ARE NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DIAGNOSTIC AND PLANNING WORK. NO MATTER WHO WINS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS NEXT FEBRUARY, THIS GROUP WILL IMPORTANTLY AFFECT POLICY AND THE DIRECTION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AS ADVISERS AND AS MINISTERIAL-LEVEL APPOINTEES.

ACTION REQUESTED: (1) WE HAVE GONE INTO SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL THAN USUAL IN THIS REQUEST BECAUSE OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS FULBRIGHT REQUEST. WE STRESS THE NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION AND FOR OBTAINING A CANDIDATE OF PROVEN ABILITY. (2) PLEASE ADVISE OF PROGRESS ON THIS REQUEST, INCLUDING FURNISHING NAMES OF POSSIBLE CANDIDATES.

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